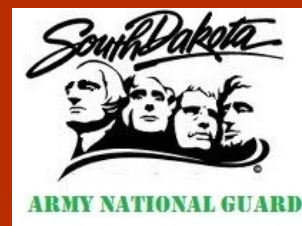




# Safety Sense



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Every two years, the Army releases a new safety campaign intended to promote individual responsibility and engagement on all fronts — among Leaders, Soldiers, Civilians, Families and peers — to help prevent fatalities and injuries throughout the year.

The new two-year safety campaign is entitled Ready ... or Not? It is designed to heighten awareness of risk factors by causing individuals and Leaders to ask themselves one simple question, “Are you and/or your organization ready for what is about to happen?”

The campaign will include four seasonal mini-campaigns throughout the year — beginning with autumn and then running through winter, spring and summer. The mini-campaigns serve to raise awareness of the increased hazards associated with the different seasons, but also provide safety and information on accident prevention issues that apply year-round, such as distracted driving and home safety. Ready ... or Not? will help kick off the Army Safe Autumn Safety Campaign that runs through early December 2014. Topics include sports and recreation, private motor vehicles, privately owned weapons and aviation. (<https://safety.army.mil/>)

Safety has a direct correlation to unit and individual readiness. Unit readiness is defined as having adequate personnel, materiel and supplies, equipment and training that, when properly balanced, enables immediate and effective application of military power. Leaders should ask themselves, “Is my unit ready for whatever event or situation will come next?” Individual readiness is defined as being physically and mentally capable of executing any given task. Individuals should ask themselves, “Am I ready for whatever event or situation will come next?”

The readiness of our Army is dependent on a variety of things such as funding, training and education, equipment and personnel. Through the prevention of accidental loss of our Soldiers, Civilians, Families and vital resources through risk mitigation, we aid in the preservation of the force.

## The Future of Motorcycle Safety Training

There have been some significant changes in laws and policies that govern the DTS and travel reimbursement procedures. Unfortunately, the process used for the past two years of reimbursement following the Motorcycle Basic and Experienced Riders courses is now off limits. The State Safety Office, the South Dakota Safety Council and various members of the SDARNG who are riders are working to find an effective means to provide initial and continuing education and training to all Soldiers who are riders or wish to learn and obtain a motorcycle license. For the CY 14, most of the motorcycle training is complete and we hope to have an effective plan in place by February Safety Sense publication date. If you have a suggestion to help resolve the issue, please e-mail SGT Don Gibbs with your input.

# HUNTER AND HUNTING SAFETY



One of the of the most exciting aspects of living in South Dakota is the hunt. Hunting involves many things. It's lots of hard work, long hours, stiff joints, cold feet, and ups and downs. But the rewards greatly outweigh the discomforts. Being outdoors in the vast prairie or the tree covered Black Hills is almost a religious experience. To have an enjoyable and rewarding experience, proper preparation is paramount. Some hunters will even plan their trips months in advance and may detail intrinsic plans right down to the food that will be cooked for each meal in the field. For those who enjoy the outdoors and the challenge of the hunt, do so, keeping in mind the responsibilities that come with the privilege; preservation of the land, safety for yourself and other hunters, respect for land owners and the conservation of animals that we hunt.

Before you head out, review the regulations for the animal you are hunting. Regulations change year to year and it is important to know what is allowed and what can cause you to lose your hunting privileges and receive a hefty fine. South Dakotas hunting regulations can be found at; <http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/>

Check the weather reports for the area that you will be hunting in.

Tell someone where you will be hunting,

and when you plan on returning. Put hunting plans in writing (dates, times, location and expected time of return), then leave one copy at home and one on your vehicle.

Familiarize yourself with the area you want to hunt in. Search for topography maps of the area to better understand the terrain, as well as boundary lines of State Parks, Private Land, BLM, National Forrest etc...

Dress properly and be prepared for the worst possible conditions. Dress in layers with moisture wicking under layer of clothing to help you stay dry. Remove layers as you warm up to help prevent sweating. The old saying "Cotton Kills" is true. When cotton gets wet, it is a horrible insulator. Try to dress using wool, fleece, micro fleece, Polyester, nylon etc... Bring a spare set of dry clothing as well as rain gear.

During certain seasons, Hunters must wear at least one exterior garment of fluorescent orange while hunting. Garments include hat, shirt, vest, jacket, coat or sweater. If accompanied by a dog, the dog should also wear hunter orange or a very visible color on a vest, leash, coat or bandana.

Avoid wearing white or tan during deer season. Wear hunter orange or another highly visible color.

Check all equipment before and after each outing and maintain it properly. Familiarize yourself with its operation before using it in the field.

Before you pull the trigger you must properly identify game animals. Until your target is fully visible and in good light, do not even raise your scope to see it. Use binoculars! Know what is in front of and behind your target. Determine that you have a safe backstop or background. Since you do not know what is on the other side, never take a shot at any animals on top of ridges or hillsides. Be alert when hunting near developed areas and trails. Other recreationists are in the forest as well.

Even if your plan is for a day hunt, prepare for a night in the woods in case you get lost. Carrying these items in a small day pack or adding to your hunting pack could be the difference in surviving and becoming a casualty of the environment: map of the area, compass, GPS, water, protein bars, matches/fire starter, first aid kit, space blanket, flashlight, surveyors tape, signal mirror, knife, multi tool, gloves, knit cap, and rain gear. If you get hopelessly lost, stay put! Establish a shelter and wait for help. Use the mirror, flashlight and light a fire for signal (just make sure the fire is controlled and monitored).

A hunting trip or just a hike in the trees should be fun and relaxing, but stay alert and be prepared for the worst case scenario.

Special thanks to SGT Kelly Wolfe for he contributions

# THE FIRE IT COMES

*Are you ready for winter?*



- Follow the directions on the package if you use man-made logs.
- Never close the damper with hot ashes in the fireplace and be sure the fire is out before retiring for the evening.
- Always use a sturdy screen when fireplaces are in use.
- Burn only wood.
- Make sure the fire is out before leaving the house or going to bed.



# READY ...OR NOT?

**Ready ... or Not** is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their "readiness" for what lies ahead—the known as well as the unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcome of those events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making.

So are **YOU** ready ... or not?



ARMY STRONG.



U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS/SAFETY CENTER

<https://safety.army.mil>



## GENERAL FIRE SAFETY AND PROTECTION TIPS

**M**ake sure all family members know what to do in the event of a fire. Draw a floor plan with at least two ways of escaping every room. Make a drawing for each floor. Dimensions do not need to be correct. Make sure the plan shows important details: stairs, hallways and windows that can be used as fire escape routes.

**T**est windows and doors—do they open easy enough? Are they wide enough. Or tall enough?

**C**hoose a safe meeting place outside the house.

**P**practice alerting other members. It is a good idea to keep a bell and flashlight in each bedroom.

## CONDUCT A FAMILY MEETING

Conduct a family meeting and discuss the following topics:

- *Always sleep with the bedroom doors closed. This will keep deadly heat and smoke out of bedrooms, giving you additional time to escape.*
- *Find a way for everyone to sound a family alarm. Yelling, pounding on walls, whistles, etc. Practice yelling "FIRE!"*
- *In a fire, time is critical. Don't waste time getting dressed, don't search for pets or valuables. Just get out!*
  - *Roll out of bed. Stay low. One breath of smoke or gases may be enough to kill.*

## BE PREPARED- PLAN AHEAD

Practice evacuating the building blindfolded. In a real fire situation, the amount of smoke generated by a fire most likely will make it difficult to see.

Practice staying low to the ground when escaping.

Feel all doors before opening them. If a door is hot, get out another way.

Learn to stop, drop to the ground, roll if clothes catch fire.

Enter the Fire Escape Systems Store

**Install smoke detectors:** Check smoke detectors once a month and change the batteries at least once a year. Smoke detectors sense abnormal amounts of smoke or invisible combustion gases in the air. They can detect both smoldering and burning fires. At least one smoke detector should be installed on every level of a structure. Purchase smoke detectors labeled by the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM). **Post emergency numbers near telephones:** Be aware that if a fire threatens your home, you should not place the call to emergency services from inside the home. It is better to get out and place the call to fire authorities from a safe location outside the home. **After a fire emergency:** Give first aid where appropriate. Seriously injured victims should be transported to professional medical help immediately. Stay out of the damaged building. Return only when fire authorities say it is safe. **Make sure you have a safe fire escape method for all situations:** You may have installed a very expensive home security system. But if you cannot escape the burning structure you have a false level of confidence. **Space Heaters Need Space:** Keep portable and space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that may burn. Never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to sleep. Children and pets should always be kept away from them. **Smokers Need To Be Extra Careful:** Never smoke in bed or when you are sleepy. Carelessly discarded cigarettes are a leading cause of fire deaths in the United States. **Be Careful Cooking:** Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles and wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when you cook. Keep the handles of your pots turned inward so they do not overhang the stove. If grease catches fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan and smother the flames, then turn off the burner. **Matches and Lighters are Dangerous:** In the hands of a child, matches and lighters can be deadly! Store them where kids can't reach them, preferably in a locked area. Teach children that matches and lighters are "tools" and should only be used by adults. **Use Electricity Safely:** If an appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it immediately and have it repaired. Replace frayed or cracked electrical cords and don't overload extension cords. They should not be run under rugs. Never tamper with the fuse box or use the improper size fuse. **Cool a Burn:** If someone gets burned, immediately place the wound under cool water for 10 to 15 minutes. If the burn blisters or chars, see a doctor immediately! **Be Careful of Halogen Lights:** If you have halogen lights, make sure they are away from flammable drapes and low ceiling areas. Never leave them on when you leave your home or office.